

Neglected Treasures

It is said of Mary the mother of Jesus that when she heard some remarkable prediction in regard to the divine child, or some wonderful utterance of his own lips, that she treasured these things in her heart. Here is one of the secrets of a quickened spiritual life. Think of the wonderful things we often hear, some passage of God's word which flashes upon us with a sudden and marvelous illumination, some utterance from the pulpit which goes into the inner chamber of our experience; suppose we treasured these things, what a fund of spiritual wisdom and knowledge we would soon have, and what an armor of righteousness against all evil; what comfort for our sorrows, what strength for our pilgrimage.

Unprofitable

A very small amount of space in the great dailies is devoted to religious subjects, and the reason is given that they find the discussion of religion unprofitable. That is to say, it is so distasteful to the majority of their readers as to injure the financial interests of the paper. The popularity of religion would argue its degeneracy, or the regeneracy of the populace. As long as so large a majority of the populace is unregenerate, the unpopularity of religion continues to be a sign of its divine nature, and its pure reflection in the hearts of believers. Distinct effort to make religion popular with the irreligious is a distinct folly.

A Large Family

A reliable tabulation of the churches shows that there are six divisions of the Adventist church, thirteen divisions of the Baptists, three of the River Brethren, three of the Plymouth Brethren, three of the Catholics, three of the Dunkards, two of the Episcopalians, four of the Quakers, two of the Mormons, twenty of the Lutherans, twelve of the Mennonites, seventeen of the Methodists, twelve of the Presbyterians, three of the Reformed, with a host of others of more or less importance. This multitude of sects represents the external discord of the visible church, and also the magnitude of the work proposed by the unionists. It is evident that at least for sometime to come unionists will have to walk by faith. To say nothing of the difficulty of bringing diverse denominations to one theological and ecclesiastical platform, think of the difficulties in the way of reuniting severed factions of the same church. Take for example the twenty Lutheran sects, or if this appears to be too magnitudinous a job, bring the problem nearer home and tackle the simpler proposition of reuniting the severed dunkard family. Who is sufficient for these things? Nevertheless we believe in the ultimate triumph of unity just as we believe in the ultimate triumph of

righteousness. Nothing is impossible with God, and when the perfect wisdom of the divine understanding and the perfect love of the Lord Jesus Christ shall prevail throughout the church, essential unity will follow, will have been accomplished. Until then each Christian can cultivate a broader sympathy, and discourage the narrowness and prejudice which is one of the unfortunate fruits of denominationalism.

Did Not Recognize It

A reliable daily paper is responsible for the following:

During the course of a speech in the Senate the other day Mr. Caffery, of Louisiana, read a long extract from a large, clothbound volume. Some of the phrases attracted the attention of Senator Spooner, who was among Mr. Caffery's six auditors, and he asked: "From what is the Senator reading?" "I am reading," replied Mr. Caffery, with crushing emphasis, "from the Constitution of the United States."

There are not a few Christians who are about as familiar with their Bibles, the divine Constitution of the Christian church and of the individual life, as this Senator is with the Constitution of the United States. And yet that man sits as an expounder of the Constitution of which he is ignorant, and as a maker of laws for the American people which are supposed to be in harmony with the spirit and letter of that Constitution. But the Christian's life is supposed to be an exposition of the gospel which he accepts as his rule of faith and practice, and how shall he make that a part of his life of which he is ignorant? If the pastor of an ordinary congregation were to request his people to turn to a certain chapter of a certain book in either the Old or the New Testament, there would be such a fumbling that would cause him to grow red in the face over. The Bible, the divine Constitution which is to govern the individual, and thro the individual, the national life, should be familiar to all who profess faith in its teachings. Dear Christian, do you make this blessed book your daily study? Do you, by prayerful, earnest study, endeavor to absorb its teachings, make them part of your very life and live its great principles as you go about your daily duties? The world gets its theology from the lives of Christian people; we are living epistles, known and read of all men; the world does not read books on evidences, its one great book on Christian evidences is the Christian life, and oh, if we should give the lie to our profession. Years ago the following prayer was prefixed to some editions of the early English versions of the Bible. It might well have a place on the fly leaf of our Bibles: "O gracious and most merciful Father, which hast vouchsafed us the rich and precious jewel of the Holy Word, assist us by thy Spirit, that it may be written in our hearts; to our everlasting comfort, to reprove us, to renew us

according to thine own image; to build up, and edify us to the perfect building of thy Christ; sanctifying and increasing in us all heavenly virtues. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen."

Stole Two Cents

A few weeks ago a youth of six years was arrested and landed in the police station, Pittsburg, Pa. This little incident in city life furnishes the basis for a short editorial in a daily paper in which the editor remarks that the intelligence that a youth of six years has been arrested and locked up for stealing two cents makes society breathe more easily because the law protects it. We are not so sure about that, brother editor. In that same city are thousands of legalized saloons which have stolen many thousands of dollars from the parents of such as this little "feller" who was lodged in jail for stealing two cents. And who shall say that but for these highway robbers this youth would not have been tempted nor had occasion to steal either two cents or any other amount. An enormous crime, this stealing two cents. The same law which arrested and imprisoned the youth of six years gives conscienceless men permission to steal not only people's money, but their character, their happiness and their homes. Society safe! Society breathe more easily! Perhaps that particular part of society which has learned how to steal, not two cents, but millions at one grab, and then be complimented for shrewdness or business tact. But as for mothers whose boys are out in the cold world exposed to the temptations of the saloon which exists by permission this very law that lodged the youth of six in jail, we are not so certain that that part of society feels any more safe or breathes more easily because the law promptly punished this youthful offender. Poor little fellow, he should have known better. Why did he not wait until he had learned the trade and then steal several thousands or several millions by making a "corner" in wheat or bread stuffs, driving hundreds like himself to poverty and compel them either to steal or starve. Woe to the youth who will dare to steal a *small* sum.

A Hopeful View

Failure to recognize the evil that exists in the world does not make the world any better. It is an element of strength in ourselves to recognize the strength of the enemy. The Lord has called us into his service to wage war against sin and wickedness in high places, and it is no part of the battle to close our eyes to the awful wickedness that exists all about us. Neither will it help us anything to minify the good and magnify the evil. The better way is to recognize both the evil and the good as they exist. Amid all the evil round about us, we shall find